

59

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Action

Classification

Control:

5867
JUNE 8, 1959
7:19 PM

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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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SENT BONN 5867, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 1077, GENEVA 88,
POLAD USAREUR 268, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

OCB

GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND

CIA

OSD

REF: OUR TEL 933 TO BONN, 1045 DEPT, 65 GENEVA

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

RMR

1. DEPUTY USPOLAD AND COL. SALISBURY MET AGAIN THIS MORNING WITH SOV POLAD COL. ODINTSOV TO DISCUSS SUBJECT DESCRIBED PARA 2 REFTEL. ODINTSOV'S DEPUTY, MAJOR SHILOV, NOT PRESENT DURING TODAY'S DISCUSSION.

USPOLAD EXPLAINED THAT GEN. HAMLETT WILLING TO CONSIDER CESSATION MP PATROLS BUT THEN NECESSARY THAT U.S. CHECKPOINT PERSONNEL BE INFORMED PROMPTLY IN EVENT OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS INVOLVING U.S. PERSONNEL AT SOV NOWAWES CHECKPOINT. ODINTSOV'S WILLINGNESS TO SEND SOV SOLDIER TO CHECKPOINT SATISFACTORY. HOWEVER, NOTIFICATION VIA TELEPHONE FROM KARLSHORST NOT SATISFACTORY AS THIS PROCEDURE PRECLUDES PROMPT NOTIFICATION OUR CHECKPOINT BRAVO IN EVENT DIFFICULTIES. GEN. HAMLETT WISHED THAT SOVS EITHER SEND MESSAGE FROM NOWAWES TO BRAVO PROMPTLY BY SOV SOLDIER OR WE WERE WILLING THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. CONVOY COMMANDER (IF INCIDENT INVOLVED CONVOY) RETURN FROM NOWAWES TO U.S. CHECKPOINT BRAVO TO NOTIFY PERSONNEL THERE.

ODINTSOV BINFMOCUR SOME TIME ON SIMPLICITY AND SPEED OF TELEPHONE PROCEDURE EMPHASIZING TELEPHONE CALL FROM SOV CHECKPOINT TO KARLSHORST COULD BE RELAYED TO U.S. HEADQUARTERS IN MATTER OF MINUTES. HE CITED EXAMPLES OF HOW EASILY HE COULD BE REACHED FROM CHECKPOINT AND HOW QUICKLY HE COULD DISPOSE

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-2- 1077, JUNE 8, 7 PM, FROM BERLIN

OF ROUTINE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BY ISSUING TELEPHONE INSTRUCTIONS DIRECT TO SOV CHECKPOINT OFFICERS AT NOWAWES. HE NOTED THAT SENDING SOV SOLDIER 2. KM DISTANCE WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF HOUR AS SOLDIER MUST COME BY FOOT.

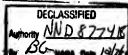
USPOLAD SAID GEN. HAMLETT DESIRED THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS BE SETTLED WHENEVER POSSIBLE AT CHECKPOINT LEVEL WITHOUT INVOLVING HIGHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. MOREOVER, DESPITE ODINTSOV'S ASSURANCE OF RAPID TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION FROM NOWAWES-KARLSHORST-U.S. HEADQUARTERS OUR EXPERIENCE IN PAST SHOWED DELAYS FREQUENT PARTICULARLY AFTER OFFICE HOURS WHEN KEY PERSONNEL SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO LOCATE. USPOLAD ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT GEN. HAMLETT ANXIOUS INCIDENTS INVOLVING U. S. PERSONNEL EITHER APPROACHING OR DEPARTING BERLIN BE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO U.S. CHECKPOINT.

ODINTSOV AGREED THAT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMPT NOTIFICATION RESTED WITH SOVIETS, AND SOV CHECKPOINT OFFICER HAD THUS FAR ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY IN COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH ODINTSOV; HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO U.S. SOLDIER RETURNING FROM NOWAWES TO CHECKPOINT BRAVO TO DESCRIBE ANY DIFFICULTIES BUT DID NOT BELIEVE IT PRACTICABLE TO EXPECT SOV SOLDIER TO MAKE 2 KM TRIP. DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT CLOSED WITH ASSURANCE THAT PROMPT NOTIFICATION WOULD BE INSURED BOTH FROM SOVIET SIDE VIA KARLSHORST BY TELEPHONE AND SENDING U.S. OR SOV SOLDIER AT SAME TIME TO NOTIFY BRAVO.

2. ODINTSOV THEN STATED HE HAD ANOTHER SUBJECT TO BRING UP. HE SAID ON JUNE 2 A SECOND 60 MM MORTAR SHELL WAS FOUND 15 METERS INSIDE TERRITORY OF GDR NEAR SITE OTHER MORTAR SHELL FOUND MAY 27 (SEE BERLIN'S G-288 TO BONN, G-473 TO DEPT). IN RESPONSE TO USPOLAD'S QUERY ODINTSOV STATED HE DID NOT MEAN TO INFER THIS SHELL HAD BEEN FIRED AFTER HIS PREVIOUS PROTEST BUT RATHER BECAUSE SHELL WAS EMBEDDED IN GROUND SO THAT ONLY TAIL ASSEMBLY WAS VISIBLE IT NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL JUNE 3. HE ADDED THAT IN VIEW PREVIOUS SOV PROTEST THIS MATTER AND GEN. HAMLETT'S PROMPT RESPONSE HE WAS NOT MAKING FURTHER PROTEST BUT MERELY "CITING THIS AS EXAMPLE." USPOLAD ASSURED ODINTSOV STEPS BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH MORTAR TRAINING SHELL INCIDENTS.

3. ODINTSOV THEN BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF GERMAN NATIONAL WHO HAS APPREHENDED ON DUTY TRAIN PROCEEDING BREMERHAVEN TO BERLIN

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-3- 1077, JUNE 8, 7 PM, FROM BERLIN

6 JUNE AT 0239. HE SAID SOV CHECKPOINT OFFICER AT MARIENBORN HAD DISCOVERED GERMAN HIDDING ON FREIGHT CAR AND CALLED U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER AND INTERPRETER TO WITNESS HIS ILLEGAL PRESENCE ON U.S. TRAIN. HE ADMITTED U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER RAISED NO OBJECTION TO REMOVAL OF GERMAN BUT INSISTED U.S. MUST BE CAREFUL TO INSURE NO ILLEGAL RIDERS ON DUTY TRAINS.

USPOLAD UNAWARE OF HITCHHIKER INCIDENT BECAUSE HE HAD NOT SEEN BERLIN COMMAND'S ACCOUNT JUNE 6 INCIDENT PRIOR TO MEETING WITH ODINTSOV.

HE ASSURED ODINTSOV HOWEVER THAT U.S. TRAIN COMANDERS UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO BE ON GUARD FOR HITCHHIKERS ON U.S. TRAINS AND TRAIN COMMANDERS MADE CHECKS TO INSURE NO ILLEGAL RIDERS ABOARD.

4. COPY BERLIN COMMAND CABLE DESCRIBING TRAIN INCIDENT BEING REPEATED TO DEPT. (CABLE WAS REPEATED BY BERLIN COMMAND TO BONN.)

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